



Billing Code 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2013-0031]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex

Committee on Food Hygiene

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety,
USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), are sponsoring a public meeting on October 23, 2013. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States positions that will be discussed at the Forty-fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), which will be held in Ha Noi, Vietnam, from November 11-15, 2013. The Under Secretary for Food Safety and the FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background

information on the 45th Session of CCFH and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place in the Jamie L. Whitten Building, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 107-A, Washington, DC 20250.

Documents related to the 45th Session of the CCFH will be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address:

<http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en/>

Jenny Scott, U.S. Delegate to the CCFH, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following e-mail address Jenny.Scott@fda.hhs.gov .

CALL-IN NUMBER:

If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 45th session of the CCFH by conference call, please use the call-in number and participant code listed below.

Call-in Number: 1-888-858-2144

Participant Code: 6208658

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 45th Session on the CCFH contact: Jenny Scott, Senior Advisor, Office of Food Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S.

Food and Drug Administration, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway,
HFS-300, Room 3B-014, College Park, MD 20740-3835;
Telephone: (240) 402-2166, Fax: (202) 436-2632, Email:
Jenny.Scott@fda.hhs.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING CONTACT:
Barbara McNiff, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue
SW, Room 4861, South Building, Washington, DC, 20250;
Telephone: (202) 690-4719, Fax: (202) 720-3157, Email:
Barbara.McNiff@fsis.usda.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius (Codex) was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene is responsible for:

(a) Drafting basic provisions on food hygiene applicable to all food;

(b) Considering, amending if necessary, and endorsing provisions on hygiene prepared by Codex commodity committees and contained in Codex commodity standards;

(c) Considering, amending if necessary, and endorsing provisions on hygiene prepared by Codex commodity committees and contained in Codex codes of practice unless, in specific cases, the Commission has decided otherwise

(d) Drafting provisions on hygiene applicable to specific food items or food groups, whether coming within the terms of reference of a Codex commodity committee or not;

(e) Considering specific hygiene problems assigned to it by the Commission;

(f) Suggesting and prioritizing areas where there is a need for microbiological risk assessment at the international level and to develop questions to be addressed by the risk assessors; and

(g) Considering microbiological risk management matters in relation to food hygiene, including food irradiation, and in relation to the risk assessment of FAO/WHO.

The CCFH is hosted by the United States.

Issues to be discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the Agenda for the 45th Session of the CCFH will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters Referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or Other Codex Committees and Task Forces to the Food Hygiene Committee
- Matters arising from the Work of FAO, WHO and other International Intergovernmental Organizations
 - (a) Progress Report on the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) and Related Matters
 - (b) Information from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
- Proposed Draft Guidelines for Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat: *Trichinella spiralis* and *Cysticercus bovis* at Step 4
- Proposed Draft Revision of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Dried Aromatic Plants at Step 4
- Proposed Code of Practice for Low Moisture Foods at Step 4

- Discussion paper on occurrence and control of parasites
- Discussion paper on the need to revise the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
- Other Business and Future Work
 - (a) Forward Work plan and criteria for evaluating and prioritizing new work
 - (b) New Work

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Codex Secretariat prior to the Committee meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents (see ADDRESSES).

Public Meeting

At the October 23, 2013, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegate for the 45th Session of the CCFH, Jenny Scott (see ADDRESSES). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 45th Session of the CCFH.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this notice online through the FSIS Web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/federal-register>.

FSIS also will make copies of this Federal Register publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The update is available on the FSIS Web page. Through the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader and more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an e-mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/programs-and-services/email-subscription-service>. Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives and notices.

Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their account.

Done at Washington, DC on: September 20, 2013

Mary Frances Lowe,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius

[FR Doc. 2013-23503 Filed 09/25/2013 at 8:45 am;
Publication Date: 09/26/2013]